

May 2011

My dear parishioners,

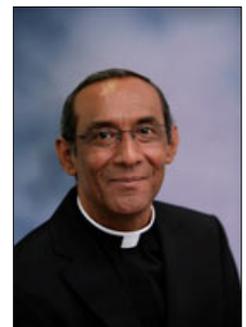
As I write this, yesterday, May 18th, I celebrated another anniversary. Forty-three years ago, I was ordained a priest by Cardinal O'Boyle right here at St. Matthew's Cathedral. I remember the day so well—it was sunny and warm, and a busload of people came from St. Bernard's in Riverdale where I had served as a deacon. I never dreamed then that I would return to the Cathedral, not once but twice. Less than five years later, I returned as an associate at St. Matthew's and the Director of the Liturgy Office for the Archdiocese. In my first life, I spent eleven years here at the Archdiocese's Mother Church, and in 1995 I began my second life here with my appointment as Rector.

So much has happened during my twenty-seven (!) years at St. Matthew's—Pope John Paul's visit and the coordination of two liturgies, the complete restoration of the Cathedral, the renovation of the rectory and conference center, an expanded list of pastoral programs, membership jumping from 700 to more than 2,800 and many, many baptisms and weddings. What I treasure most, however, is all of you. Some of you were here long before I arrived in January of 1974; many are fairly new to the parish. Each of you is special to me, and I faithfully remember all of you in my prayers.

Ordination of Parishioners to the Priesthood

On **June 18** at 10am at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, two of our parishioners will be ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Wuerl—Deacon Alejandro Diaz and Deacon Rudy Salinas. We congratulate them, pray for them and wish them well in their priestly ministry. On Sunday, **June 19**, Father Salinas will celebrate First Masses of Thanksgiving here at 7am and 1pm, and Father Diaz will celebrate a First Mass of Thanksgiving here at 10am. All are welcome to the Mass of Ordination at the Shrine, to the First Masses at the Cathedral and to the receptions in the Great Hall after each of the three First Masses on **June 19**.

Deacon Rodolfo Salinas-Cabrera was born and grew up in Lima, Peru and is the second of three children. He studied Computer Science in Lima, Philosophy in Miami, Florida, and Psychology at the University of Maryland. Prior to entering Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts in 2007, he worked for the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland as a Research Coordinator. He was ordained a Permanent Deacon in June 2005 and served as Permanent Deacon at St. Mark's in Hyattsville and at St. Matthew's Cathedral. In 2007 he was accepted as a diocesan seminarian for the Archdiocese of Washington.



Deacon Alejandro Diaz was born and grew up in Bogotá, Colombia and is the fifth of seven children. He studied Business Administration in Colombia and has more than 20 years of work experience with financial institutions in Colombia and Canada. Prior to entering Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts in 2007, he worked for Citibank, Royal Bank and TD Canada Trust. In Toronto, Canada in 2002, he joined a religious congregation through which he came to Washington, D.C in 2004. In 2006, he was accepted as a seminarian of the Archdiocese of Washington. As a deacon, he served at St. Mary of the Mills in Laurel, MD.



Deacon Salinas and Deacon Diaz are grateful to the many parishioners who have prayed for them for the past years and will include you in their prayers at their First Masses.

Summer Highlights

Since this is my last letter until the Fall, I want to remind you of some upcoming highlights. On Friday, **June 3**, please join us for a Holy Hour for Vocations in the Cathedral beginning at 4:30pm. On **June 12**, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, marking the close of the Easter season and commemorating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Blessed Mother and the Apostles, the Church's foundation, and the beginning of its mission to all nations and peoples. On Pentecost Sunday, Cardinal Wuerl will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on over one hundred adults here at St. Matthew's, including approximately 25 parishioners. Pentecost is preceded by The Ascension of the Lord, celebrated on **June 5**. June solemnities also include The Most Holy Trinity (**June 19**) and *Corpus Christi*, or The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ (**June 26**). Finally, we celebrate the Solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, **July 1**.

While the pace of some aspects of parish life slows in the summer, opportunities for prayer and study do not! Eucharistic Adoration is offered on First Fridays from 12:45pm (following the 12:10pm Mass) until 5pm, and on the third Monday evening of each month from 6pm until 7pm (Confessions also available). Join us on Mondays through **July 11** in a *Novena for Fuller Participation in the Sacrament of the Eucharist*, prayed each Monday immediately after the 5:30pm Mass. Continuing through the summer are the Spanish Prayer Group (Tuesdays at 7pm) and the Young Adult Bible Study, *Breaking Open the Word* (Wednesdays at 7pm).

Please do note the Federal holiday schedule (8am and 12:10pm Masses only, and no confessions) for the following Mondays: Memorial Day, **May 30**, Independence Day, **July 4** and Labor Day, **September 5**. Note also that there will be no 7am Mass from Tuesday, **July 5** through and including Friday, **September 2**. The 7am Mass will resume on Tuesday, **September 6**.

Cathedral Finances

Parishioner Giving

The month of May has always been hectic. Pam Erwin, the Cathedral's Business Manager, has the awesome responsibility of preparing next year's budget for the Finance Council. No easy task! I am now seeing all kinds of figures crossing my desk, so I thought I would share some of them with you. First of all, our offertory is slightly better this year, due in part I believe to greater participation in *Faith Direct*, our electronic giving program. Many of you are very generous; I thank God for you! We are so grateful. Looking at the numbers, 27% of our parishioners have given an *identifiable* gift to the parish since the beginning of this year. (Please, bear in mind that while we welcome and are very grateful for your cash gifts in the offertory collection, we have no way of knowing that you have made a gift when you use cash!) The average contribution of 802 identifiable donors is \$15.27 each week, as shown on the next page.

completed replacement of the mortar between some of the bricks in the front steps of the Cathedral (\$16,000). Much more needs to be done. The weather-beaten wood trim on the high windows of the Cathedral and the rectory needs painting. Brick work on one side of the Cathedral needs re-pointing. Much work is needed on the N Street property, including repair of water damage in the east wall and much painting.

Archdiocesan assessments continue to rise. The education assessment will again be 9% of the offertory collection. To that, add increases in property casualty and workers' compensation insurance (5%), priest retirement and long-term care (3%), and health care for priests (5%) and for lay employees (10%) (numbers in parentheses are % increases over prior fiscal year).

Here is a sampling of expenses for this fiscal year, as of April 30: telephone - \$13,860; security - \$13,695; gas - \$34,495; electricity - \$87,163; repairs to heat and air systems - \$10,500; property insurance - \$73,500.

Special Parish Needs

We have additional needs that parish members may wish to fund with a gift in memory of a deceased family member or perhaps in honor of someone living. Examples include the following: expenses connected with the implementation of the new translation of the Roman Missal in our parish (total \$1,535); re-printing of the Latin Mass booklets (rough estimate of \$5,000); ordination dalmatics for deacons (\$8,000); server albs (\$1,500); a complete set of white vestments (\$12,000). In addition, many of the vestments purchased in 1995 are becoming very worn and torn and will need replacement over time. Please contact me at rjameson@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-347-3215 if you would like to make a memorial gift to cover any of these special needs. If you would like to reach me, please remember that I am away in July.

Electronic Giving at St. Matthew's

To date, your generosity has kept us afloat; costs, however, continue to rise and we need the help of all. Why not determine what you can afford to donate and sign up for *Faith Direct*? It is simple and it works. Need more information? See the Cathedral's webpage on *Faith Direct* at <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/support/egiving>, or call Pam Erwin at 202-587-5150. We want to continue providing the best in liturgy and music, to evangelize our community, to serve the poor, and to teach the gospel message. With your help, St. Matthew's can be a beacon of hope to the central business district. Thank you for your time and talent, and your spiritual and material treasures. All things are possible with God, working through great people like you.

Please know that I am so grateful to you. You are great parishioners. Together, with your generosity, we will make this new budget work. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector

P.S. — Please check our website (www.stmatthewscathedral.org) for up-to-date information on all our regular and special events and liturgies throughout the summer!